

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NATO 04706 041150Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04706

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EEWT, NATO, EURXH
SUBJ: ECONADS: TOPIC FOR 1978 COLLOQUIUM

REFS: A. STATE 126098, B. USNATO 4149

1. CHAIRMAN BILLY OPENED THIS POINT ON JUNE 2 ECONADS AGENDA BY PROPOSING A REVISED TITLE FOR THE "SOVIET GROWTH" TOPIC (WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT AT THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS); "SOVIET GROWTH TO 1985- ASSETS AND CONSTRAINTS". HE SAID THE NEW FORMULATION WOULD GIVE SCOPE ALSO FOR DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INDEBTEDNESS AS POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FACTORS AFFECTING GROWTH. HIS SOUNDINGS TO DATE HAD INDICATED BANKERS INVOLVED IN E-W TRADE FINANCING WOULD BE LOATHE TO ACT AS RAPORTEURS OR COMMENTATORS AT A NATO COLLOQUIUM, BUT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDANCE AND "DISCRETE" PARTICIPATION. THE UK REP (HULSE) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES APPRECIATED THIS PROBLEM BUT BELIEVED A PRIVATE, UNPUBLICIZED MEETING UNDER ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AUSPICES MIGHT BE FEASIBLE. MEMBERS OF THE LONDON BANKING COMMUNITY, INCLUDING A BANK OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE, WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE PART.

2. THE DUTCH REP (GEVERS), AFTER EXPRESSING THE HAGUE'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 04706 041150Z

PREFERENCE FOR TOPIC IV - "ECONOMIC REFORM IN EASTERN EUROPE", ASKED THAT THE COMMITTEE BE POLLED SO THAT ALL WOULD HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF NATIONAL PREFERENCES. IN THE ENSUING TOUR DE TABLE WE MADE POINTS IN REF A AND RECEIVED AGREEMENT TO E-W TRADE TOPIC AS FIRST OR SECOND CHOICE FROM DUTCH, GREEK AND GERMAN, CANADIAN, PORTUGUESE, AND, LESS STRONGLY, UK REPS. TOPIC II

ON PROSPECTS FOR SOVIET GROWTH WAS THE FIRST CHOICE OF THE UK, NORWAY AND GELGIUM REPS AND SECOND CHOICE OF TURK, ITALIAN AND FRENCH. DUTCH, ITALIAN, TURK, AND GREEK REPS HAD EE ECONOMIC REFORM AS THEIR FIRST OR SECOND PREFERENCE.

3. BELGIAN REP (DEBROUWERE) POINTED OUT THAT THE GROWTH TOPIC ALSO WOULD BE FIT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ALLIANCE E-W STUDY. IN REBUTTAL, WE POINTED OUT THAT THE COLLOQUIUM WOULD COME TOO LATE TO PERMIT INCLUSION OF ITS INFORMATION INTO THE INITIAL PHASE REVIEW OF INTERNAL FACTORS IN THE WARSAW PACT REGION. THE E-W TRADE TOPIC (PARTICULARLY IF THE COLLOQUIUM WERE HELD IN FEBRUARY, AS THE CHAIRMAN HAD ALREADY PROPOSED) COULD PROVE USEFUL FOR LATER PHASES OF OF THE STUDY.

4. CHAIRMAN BILLY CONCLUDED THAT FURTHER COMMITTEE DISCUSSION WAS REQUIRED BEFORE FINAL CHOICE OF TOPIC. HE UNDERTOOK TO PREPARE A FURTHER REFINEMENT OF THE "FRONT RUNNER" TOPICS - GROWTH AND E-W TRADE - FOR STUDY PRIOR TO THE JUNE 9 MEETING.

5. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR LOBBYING WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS AND HOPE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED IN LINE WITH WASHINGTON'S PREFERENCES AT NEXT ECONADS.

6. AS NOTED IN USNATO 4621 WE BELIEVE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE, AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, INVOLVEMENT IN THE ALLIANCE STUDY WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY FRAGMENTATION OF THE OVERALL EFFORT GIVEN INTRA-MISSION COORDINATION IN THE SEVERAL ALLIED DELEGATIONS AND SPC CHAIRMAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 04706 041150Z

JUNG'S SUPERVISION (AS ASYG FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS) OF ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE.BENNETT

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